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New Bernal Journal

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SERVING THE BERNAL HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD OF SAN FRANCISCO SINCE 1964

¡Sección Especial! NBJ en Español: Páginas 9-11

Over 15,000 Celebrate Fiesta on the Hill Gala 25th Anniversary Dinner Honors Our History and Friends

By Jack Chalmers

This past October 19th Bernal Heights' neighbors, guests and visitors packed 10 blocks of Cortland Avenue throughout the day-long fundraiser and benefit for the BHNC - making the event the most successful ever in the 15 year history of Fiesta. Two stages of continuous music and performing artists entertained the crowds at both ends of Cortland, while activities, artisans, vendors, local non-profit organizations and the Fiesta Food Court drew participants to every block of the fair. Our headliner Tierra helped

us to draw our largest crowd ever.

Fiesta on the Hill is the biggest annual fundraiser for the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center. Over 200 volunteers stage and produce this annual event that enables the Neighborhood Center to continue its work as a key service provider of youth programs, senior programs and the senior center, affordable housing, Excelsior neighborhood revitalization and community organizing.

Our 25th Anniversary Celebration actually started 3 days earlier on October 16th at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. The Gala Dinner and



The festivities on Cortland Avenue stretched as far as the eye could see on October 19th, for the 15th annual Fiesta on the Hill. This year's Fiesta drew over 15,000 people.

fundraiser was packed to capacity as the Neighborhood Center honored a Co-Founder, significant volunteers, foundation and corporate partners. The honorees were Buck Bagot, Bernice "Bebe" Castaing, Scott Cunningham, Bill Sorro, the Bank of America and the San Francisco Foundation. The dinner was an opportunity to look back upon our rich 25 year history, while fundraising for BHNC's vital programs.

The BHNC would like to thank the volunteers, participants, sponsors and those that attended the dinner

and Fiesta. With your generosity we continue offering our neighborhood the many BHNC programs and services. ■

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La Familia Govea performs at the opening reception of BHNC's 25th Anniversary Celebration, on October 16th, 2003.

Update on Proposed Home Depot Development

By Barbara Kyle

If it seems like you haven't heard much about Home Depot since the July public hearing, you're right. We are still waiting for the City to take the next step.

In July, dozens of Bernal residents testified before the San Francisco Planning Commission on the draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) on the proposal to build an enormous Home Depot on the former Goodman Lumber site on Bayshore Blvd. At this hearing, many people voiced concerns about serious traffic problems, toxic air emissions, and out-of-control development that this project would create. We also addressed some serious flaws with the EIR methodology and content.

What's Next?

The next step is for the City to address all of the questions and issues raised both at the hearing and in writing during the public comment period (which ended in July), in the form of the final EIR. Now it's December, and we are still waiting for this final EIR document. The Planning Department is still working on drafts of it. We had expected

Home Depot Updates

The No Depot Committee will conduct a Countdown in Colma the weekends of December 13th-14th and December 20th-21st at both the main and pro Home Depot stores in Colma, near the Serramonte Shopping Center. The Countdown will log all vehicle trips (cars and trucks entering and exiting the stores) using hand clickers and video documentation to humanize the impact of these huge stores. Volunteer teams are needed for the Countdown, please call Ron Morgan at 206-2140 x 155 for more information.

Home Depot has used the weed-choked lots and graffiti spattered buildings at the Goodmans Lumber and Whole Earth Access sites in countless PR stories and mailers as examples of the blight their proposed development will replace and presumably improve. Now, after nearly three years of site control, Home Depot has finally cleaned up these eyesores after repeated complaints from neighbors and clean city advocates.

The New Bernal Journal

515 Cortland Ave.
San Francisco, CA
94110
(415) 206-2140 ext.108
NBj@BHNC.ORG
fax:(415) 648-0793

EDITOR/DESIGNER
PAUL WELCH

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE
RON MORGAN
MAURICIO VELA

SPANISH TRANSLATION
AND EDITORIAL
ANNA ULBRICH

ADVERTISING
KATHY O'GRADY
For advertising information
and rates, please call
(415) 206-2140 ext. 148

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The New Bernal Journal is a
neighborhood newspaper spon-
sored by the
Bernal Heights Neighborhood
Center.

It is dedicated to providing the
people of Bernal Heights with
their community's news, ideas,
issues and events which support
the center mission:

To preserve and enhance the eth-
nic, cultural and economic diver-
sity and well-being of the Bernal
Heights community. We work to
build a strong community for all,
with a focus on the needs of low
and moderate-income people.
We do this by providing services
to support and increase opportu-
nities for seniors, youth and oth-
ers most at-risk; by preserving
and expanding access to afford-
able housing; and by building
the neighborhood's power and
capacity to achieve these goals.
We commit to being a provider
of essential services, a builder of
community, and a force for
organizing neighborhood
change.

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Letter from the Executive Director of the BHNC

Dear Neighbors:

As the Holiday Season begins, I would like to take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you a safe and joyous holiday season.

We had a tremendous October, with four special events, including the 5199 Mission Ground Breaking, the Excelsior Festival, the 25th Anniversary dinner and the 15th annual Fiesta on the Hill, the publication of a special edition New Bernal Journal, and the provision of our on-going contracted services. I wanted to publicly commend our outstanding staff. Their commitment to social justice and building healthy, inclusive community is unmatched. It's quite an honor to work with this bunch of people.

Last month was exciting as the BHNC co-hosted with Coleman Advocates for Children and Youth as well as thirty other youth serving agencies a forum that provided individuals the opportunity to question both Mayoral candidates individually around issues pertaining to children, youth, and families in San Francisco (see article on page 5). It is great that both candidates are now

talking about affordable housing, homelessness, and education as three of their top five issues. Thanks to all the city residents who participated in the November 22nd forum.

December is always challenging and festive. Staff and Board assemble and approve the annual workplan and budget for the upcoming year, publish the December New Bernal Journal, and organize our two toy giveaways and senior luncheon. This year we're going to host our Bernal Toy Giveaway at the Bank of America parking lot at 3250 Mission St. at 29th Street. We could use contributions of news toys for ages 1-13 as well as help at the event with distribution on December 16th. You can drop off toys at the BHNC, Four Star Video, and The Good Life Grocery. Hosting the toy giveaway on Mission Street is our continued approach to get more merchants and Mission street residents involved in the BHNC and the Mission Street planning effort.

Since April of 2001 Home Depot has not obtain a permit to build on Bayshore. Partial credit can be given to the Bernal Heights community for raising critical issues around the



Citibank representatives Kimberley Balmediano, of the Gleen Park office, and Erwin Ombao, of the Excelsior office, present BHNC staff with Citibank's third contribution of 2003, a check for \$4,000 in support of BHNC's community development activities."

proposed location and its impact on our community. We expect Home Depot to go before the planning commission sometime in Spring 2004. Now is the time to reinvigorate our campaign to stop Home Depot. Included in this issue is a letter to the editor from Toby Levine discussing some of her suggestions that she believes have been excluded in the Home Depot discussion. We're delighted to present opposing viewpoints on issues impacting our community. If you would like to help the No Home Depot campaign during the month of December please contact us immediately at 206-2140 ext. 155.

Finally, I would like to close with thanking Paul Welch, our current New Bernal Journal edi-

tor for his efforts in publishing our community newspaper. The December issue will be Paul's final issue. He has taken a job teaching English in China starting in January. Thank you Paul and best of luck in all your future endeavors.

In closing, I'd like to thank everybody who participated in celebrating BHNC's 25 years of community development throughout the year and contributed to the future success of the organization. We invite all Bernal neighbors to actively participate in the work and activities of the Neighborhood Center.

Sincerely,

Mauricio E. Vela
Executive Director

Farewell from the Editor

Dear Bernal,

After this issue, I will end my tenure as Editor of the New Bernal Journal. I am leaving to pursue a dream of mine; I will be teaching English in China. As much as I love this city, and Bernal Heights in particular, the new horizon beckons. I do plan to return here in the near future, and I'm sure that you will have made this an even better place to live by then.

When I first took this job three years ago, I had only recently moved to the neighborhood and had little or no concept of how special this place is. The only thing I knew about the BHNC was that it was across the street from the library.

Once I saw the extent of the work that it does, as well as commitment from Bernalians to have a voice in public affairs, I was convinced that this was the place for me. I and the staff of the BHNC, particularly Ron Morgan, with whom I have worked closely for close to two years, have tried to make the NBj an unique paper which not only details the fine work of the BHNC and other organizations and people, but reflects the soul of our unique oasis as well. I am proud of what we have built, and hope that the NBj keeps moving on to bigger and better things.

I must
thank
Mauricio

Vela for taking a chance on a kid with nothing more than an English degree and a couple of layout classes three years ago, Edi Berton who mentored me in the fine art of putting together a paper, Justine Strebler our past and Kathy O'Grady our current Advertising Sales Reps, who took time out from their other duties at the BHNC to put together a fine list of clients, and last, but certainly not least, to the staff of the BHNC and the community at large for all of their submissions, you are the heart of this paper.

This also means that the NBj needs a new editor. If you live

in the neighborhood, have some editorial experience, good knowledge of Quark, some Photoshop and Illustrator (to format ads and photos), and your own equipment (computer, scanner etc.) and a love for Bernal, and are interested in discussing the position, please call Ron Morgan at 206-2140 x155.

Again, thanks to the BHNC and the Bernal Community for making this job an enjoyable and rewarding experience.

Sincerely,
Paul Welch

Editor, New Bernal Journal

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Like what you see in the NBj?
Want to help your neighbors
see it too?

Become a Volunteer Distributer!

The New Bernal Journal is delivered to the doors of almost every home in Bernal for free. We rely on our generous volunteers to make sure that it reaches the houses of our neighbors, particularly our seniors who may not make it down to the stores where the NBj is also available. Please help make a difference and volunteer to distribute around your area today. Even one block helps tremendously!

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I have been bothered for some time by a lack of journalistic balance on the part of The New Bernal Journal (as well as The Old Bernal Journal) on the issue of whether or not there should be a Home Depot at the old Goodman lumber site. The articles in the Journal indicate only the reasons why there should not be a Home Depot, (or its equivalent size and type store, such as an Orchard, or a Friedman's or a Yardbird or a big ACE). There is never a discussion as to why it might be advantageous to have a large, comprehensive "Do it Yourself" home improvement store in San Francisco. Good decision-making on the part of the electorate or upon the part of the policy-makers requires well-rounded information...not a lot of emotional rhetoric.

Topics that could be discussed:

What sales taxes would be recouped if there was a "Do it Yourself" (DIY) center in San Francisco? The sales tax loss to the Colma Home Depot store is well-documented. I have read a figure of \$43,000,000 in sales tax from that store alone. What about other centers? We now shop at Friedman's and Yardbird, though we used to shop a Goodman's. One can assume that other San Franciscans shop outside the City at other Home Depots or at other large DIY. Consumers shop outside of the City because they can't get the products they want at a reasonable price in San Francisco.

Interestingly, the Bay Area Consumer's Checkbook, Fall/Winter edition, has just published an article on Hardware stores in each county rated for price and quality of service. Several hardware stores in San Francisco rate high on service including Cole, Cliff's, Tuggeys, and Glen Park, but not hardware store in San Francisco was rated with a satisfactory price index. So, if price or possibly variety is uppermost in shopper's mind, as opposed to service, the person will travel out of the City.

The sales tax loss needs to be weighed against the idea of what could be done with those funds if they were available to the City...could we fund a new library, provide supportive housing for a group of homeless folks, rehabilitate a neighborhood park? Actually, we could probably do all of those actions and more with the funds we now lose. We need to know the true sales tax loss to all the surrounding

DIY's to make a balanced decision as to whether or not there should be a "Super" hardware DIY store in San Francisco.

Another discussion that should occur has to do with air quality. What is the air quality cost of shoppers driving out of the City to purchase Home Improvement products, when they could be shopping in San Francisco if the products they wanted were available.

Job creation is another issue. I suppose that the Journal will say, these are not good jobs. They're not Union jobs. These jobs will put other jobs out of business. However, ideas about job creation and job loss should be discussed. And among the people who should enter into the discussion are the 25,200 San Franciscans who are on the unemployment rolls as of this September, or the many students who need part-time work to continue their education.

The Journal has indicated that small hardware stores will be driven out of business by Home Depot, or its equivalent. I am sure this has happened. But shopping at a "Home Depot" is a different kind of shopping than at a hardware store. The neighborhood hardware store is a matter of convenience and neighborliness and not necessarily for the purpose of buying a bathtub or a new cabinet, or getting the best price in the world.

However, it is certainly a consideration and should be evaluated. Has the Journal investigated examples of what has happened to hardware stores in a city when a "Home Depot" type store comes into being? I do remember, very clearly, the same argument was made against Costco. Costco would drive out all such similar stores. And yet, shortly after Costco opened, so did Foods Co, Rainbow and Trader Joes, all in the same area of the City. Was Costco a magnet? Or did all these stores just recognize a good area for their businesses?

Has the Journal thought about mitigations that are needed if the Home Depot approved? The potential mitigations should be put on the table for an open discussion. The mitigation discussion could include store size, traffic issues, union shop, the hiring of students or the disabled, and dozens of other significant issues.

Has any effort been made to find another replacement for Goodman's other than Home Depot? There are lots of other "Home Improvement" companies that could be contacted. Home Depot is not the only act

in the universe of Home Improvement...Do it Yourself.

Bayshore Business Community

Finally, there is the issue of the future of the "Bayshore" area, which is primarily warehousing, light industrial and retail. Currently, there are a lot of vacancies. What can be done to attract businesses to that area? What types of businesses are suitable?

What would the current businesses located in "Bayshore" like to see happen? Would they see a "Home Depot" type of business and attractant for other businesses and more customers or as a unbeatable competitor? The Journal could perform a valuable service by igniting that discussion among the businesses located there.

I urge the New Bernal Journal to do a serious analysis reviewing all sides of the issue related to Home Depot...do it in your paper...encourage the public to participate and share their knowledge and thoughts. Right now, the paper is being neither objective nor informative.

Sincerely,

M. Toby Levine



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Response from the Editor

We certainly appreciate Toby Levine's point of view, and thank her for taking the time to compose this detailed letter to us. First it should be noted that we have never claimed to be impartial on the Home Depot subject. Three years ago, when the Home Depot first laid claim to the Goodman's Lumber spot, we analyzed the initial data, coupled with Home Depot's history of predatory pricing, and its track record in the communities it enters. We saw a disturbing trend developing, and set out to block it from entering our neighborhood. As we saw each successive Environmental report indicating the effects of traffic on our ill equipped streets and increased air pollution, we felt vindicated in our early actions. We looked at job quality with Home Depot, and saw that they offered plenty of part time jobs with no benefits, a habit of promoting from out-

side, and no domestic partner benefits. And when we saw Home Depot renege on its promises to the Bayview about job creation and training, and the subsequent dissolution of support for the project in that neighborhood, we felt vindicated in our beliefs.

We are not impartial; we have analyzed the impartial data collected by others (even Home Depot's own generous EIR still indicates illegal amounts of emissions stemming from the development) and come to the conclusion that this Mega Store must be stopped for the protection of the neighborhood. Home Depot has been consistently dishonest in its data, and its promises to our communities. See www.nodepot.org for more information on Home Depot's tactics during these last three years. It's been a hard fight, but here we are three years later. We plan to keep it up until they pick up and leave, and then we can worry about finding an appropriate replacement for Goodman's.. We don't think that the site should remain empty of

course, it's not even the fact that it's a chain store that wants to come in. It's that this company and this development is poorly planned, will cause havoc to our streets, and not provide quality jobs with benefits or livable wages. Whoever comes in to that site has to be willing to work

with the communities of Bernal and Bayview to provide good jobs and demonstrate that they won't create crippling traffic or pollution.

Paul Welch
 Editor, New Bernal Journal



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Support is also provided to Fiesta by:

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Thank You!



photo: Joseph Smooke



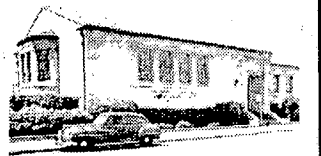
photo: Scott Cunningham



Bernal Heights Branch Library News

by Lisa Dunseth, Branch Manager

Thanks to Sophie and her creative kids for making the paper bag piñatas which decorated our front door during Fiesta this year; everyone enjoyed them, especially the goodies inside. The San Francisco Public Library will be celebrating its 125th anniversary next June and, to commemorate, we are planning a Bernal Heights History Day to take place in the spring. If you have any old photos or stories of the neighborhood let us know; we might be able to use them for our program or scrapbook.



CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS AT THE LIBRARY:

Our next, and very special, GABRIEL SHARING FUND sponsored program will feature the Nick Barone Puppets on Thursday, December 4th at 11:00 a.m. - For ages 2-7.

STAFF RECOMMENDS:

Carol: SISTER ACT (the movie). Hannah: Andrea Kane's SCENT OF DANGER; Christina Skye's GOING OVERBOARD. Kristie: FAMILY TRUST by Amanda Brown. Lisa: Maxine Hong Kingston's FIFTH BOOK OF PEACE and TO BE THE POET; Tanuja Desai Hidier's BORN CONFUSED. Skye: Jhumpa Lahiri's INTERPRETER OF MALADIES. Sylvie: Jane Juska's A ROUND-HEELED WOMAN; Melody Ermachild Chavis's MEENA, HEROINE OF AFGHANISTAN; Ursula Le Guin's CHANGING PLANES.

All programs at the library are free and sponsored by the Friends and Foundation. The library is located at 500 Cortland Avenue. Call 355-2810 for more information.

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Mayoral Candidates Present Platforms on Youth and Educational Policy at the BHNC

By Paul Welch

It was standing room only at the BHNC on the afternoon of Saturday, November 22st. They had all eschewed the normal weekend activities to attend a question and answer session with the two Mayoral candidates on educational policy and youth issues: Parents, representatives from many different advocacy groups, youth activists, vocal backers of both candidates, and those just curious to learn more about the candidates' stances on these topics crowded the front, while reporters and television crews from local news stations lined up against the back walls.

The event was sponsored by Coleman Advocates for Youth, the BHNC and other local groups who are concerned with youth and family services and educational policy.

Each candidate came separately, Newsom at 3pm and Gonzalez at 4:30. They were each asked seven identical questions, from representatives of the various sponsor organizations, and between answering those, also took questions from the audience. The atmosphere was lively, with both candidates seeming relaxed and having friendly give and takes with some members of the audience. The scene threatened to turn ugly early on, as a member of the audience shouted expletives at Newsom as he gave his assessment of available Park and Rec funding. He was removed, and the rest of the night remained charged, but civil.

Although the candidates seemed to be in agreement on many issues, both championed alternatives to incarceration for youth, increasing the role of SFSU and Community Colleges to serve the needs of youth 19-

24, the need to fund early childhood education for lower income families, and the need for more youth employment services, and a need to overhaul the Juvenile Justice system and focus on prevention, there were important distinctions between their positions which reoccurred throughout the event.

Newsom kept referring to "reaching out to the business community" in his solutions to disparate issues such as moving the School of the Arts to 132 Van Ness, early childhood funding, youth employment, funding the park system, and afterschool programs.

Gonzalez stressed a need for fiscal solvency. He said we have relied on bonds for too long, and are reaching the end of how much we can borrow. He also stressed the separation between the City and the State Board of Education. He felt that the City and the superintendent have been too vocal in opposing the decisions of the Board in the past. He felt that this was divisive and ended up hurting the students. He emphasized reaching out to the "stakeholders" when trying to make a policy decision, for instance he thought that there was too much patronage through the Park and Rec department to the donors or "friends". In all, it was a lively discussion and both candidates were well spoken and outlined their policies clearly. Tough questions were asked, and the questioners made sure not



Mayoral Candidates Gavin Newsom (left) and Matt Gonzalez (right) field questions from the audience about Youth and Educational Policy at a Question and Answer session at the BHNC on Sat. November 22nd. The event was sponsored by Coleman Advocates for Youth, the BHNC, and other local youth and family advocates.

to let the candidates off the hook, making sure that the responses were grounded in specifics. It was a testament to

San Francisco's children, youth and family advocates and the investment of our community in our children that so many

came out to attend a three-hour policy discussion on their day off. ■

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| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100-249 | Neighborhood Center Friend | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1000 | Neighborhood Center Sponsor |
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- ☐ I am interested in learning about volunteer opportunities.
☐ I am interested in learning about Planned Giving opportunities.
☐ I have remembered the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center in my will.

Other Ways You Can Help!

- Make a United Way Donor Choice gift. Just fill in BHNC's code #928683 on the United Way pledge form.
- For federal workers, the Combined Federal Campaign is the program through which you designate your United Way gift.
- Multiply your gift with a matching contribution from your employer.
- Donate used items to our thrift store, Gifts on the Hill, 513 Cortland Ave., San Francisco, CA 94110
- Donate resale items to Community Thrift Store, Valencia between 17th and 18th Streets, and designate BHNC (acct# 243) as the beneficiary.
- When you shop at Cole Hardware, Mission and 29th Street, tell them you want BHNC (acct# 515) to get 10% from your purchase.
- Consider including the BHNC in your estate planning. Call (415) 206-2140, ex. 161 to discuss how.

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Home Depot continued from Front Page

to see it this month, but now it looks like we may not see the report until January or February.

Once the final EIR is published, the Planning Commission will hold another public hearing on this document, and whether they should approve it. (They call it certifying the EIR.) Again, we will ask Bernal residents to come down to City Hall with us and voice your opposition to this megastore at this public hearing. Sometimes we don't get enough advance notice of hearing dates to publish it in this paper. So we will let people know via email, on our website (www.nodotpot.org), and with flyers posted in the neighborhood. It's really important that we have a good turnout from the neighborhood for this hearing. Even if you don't want to speak, your presence helps us get our point across.

Why Oppose Home Depot?

As many Bernal residents know, we are in our third year of fighting this Home Depot development. While

many of us miss having a home improvement store so close by, we realize that Home Depot is way too big, would attract people from all over the City, and would create too much of a negative impact on our small neighborhood.

Two main reasons for concern are serious traffic congestion and toxic air emissions. The plan is for Cortland Avenue to lead right into Home Depot's driveway. Many of us use Cortland and Bayshore Blvd. to get in and out of the neighborhood. If Home Depot opens, it will add up to 1200 more cars PER HOUR onto our streets at peak times. Think about what the driveway at the Colma Home Depot looks like - bumper to bumper, snaking all the way out onto the approach street. Now picture having to go through that every time you want to drive out of the neighborhood.

And the Bayshore/Cortland intersection won't be the only problem area. It won't take long for people figure out that they can avoid the resulting congestion on Bayshore by cutting over on Cortland or other sur-

face streets (like they do for the farmers market every Saturday). Even their flawed traffic study admits that the Cortland and Mission intersection will see serious traffic delays if this project is built.

All of this traffic will also result in some significant increases in toxic air contaminants which are particularly threatening to children. These emissions would be on top of the significantly elevated concentrations of hazardous air pollutants already found in San Francisco. While even the EIR admits that the proposed Home Depot creates hazardous contaminants that exceed the legal standards, our experts tell us that they aren't even using the current standards and that the problem is much more serious than the EIR indicates.

If you want more information about what's going on with this fight, or to join our No Depot Committee, please call Ron at the neighborhood center, at 206-2140 x155. ■

MUNI Asked to Consider Revision to 67 Line

By Wayne Veatch

Several residents of the North Slope of Bernal Heights, on Ripley and Alabama streets, have asked the MUNI to consider a revision to the route of the No. 67 Bernal Heights bus line, to reduce the hazards of running the bus on Ripley St. They have pointed out that Ripley St. is too narrow for a bus and a car to pass, the bus often cannot be seen approaching, due to the slope of the street, and that cars have to take evasive action to avoid a head-on collision with the bus. This bus route was established many years ago, when

Ripley was a lightly-trafficked street with many vacant lots. Now that Ripley's lots have been filled with houses and multiple-unit buildings, there is more traffic and many more parked cars line the street, making it very difficult for a car and a bus to pass and nearly impossible for two busses to pass.

These neighbors have proposed that, coming from 24th and Mission, the 67 follow its current route south on Folsom, stop at Ripley, then continue east along Bernal Heights Blvd., turn right at the top of Alabama and continue along the same route it presently takes towards

Cortland Street. Toward 24th and Mission, the 67 would take its current route down Alabama and stop at Alabama and Ripley. Then, instead of turning left onto Ripley, it would continue down Alabama to a new stop at the bottom of the hill at Alabama and Precita, turn left on Precita to Folsom, turn right and continue its current route. This change would (1) eliminate the hazards on Ripley St., (2) provide new service to the Alabama/Precita intersection and along Precita and (3) access by bus to Bernal Heights Park. The trade-offs are (1) those using the stop at Ripley and Alabama would continue to use that stop going to 24th and Mission

but would walk one block down Ripley from Folsom and Ripley on the return and (2) those using the stop at Folsom and Stoneman would walk down one block to Folsom and Precita going to 24th and Mission but would ride up to Stoneman on the return.

MUNI has told these neighbors they will arrange for a community meeting to consider this request. Meanwhile the neighbors would like to hear from the community. Do you favor this change? Do you object to it? Do you have another suggestion? Please contact Wayne Veatch, who lives and works at 120 Ripley St., 821-1806 or veatchlaw@mindspring.com. ■



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Bernal Happenings

Holly Park Update

by Eugenie Marek

A celebratory Groundbreaking on November 3rd attracted a stellar group of city and neighborhood representatives including Supervisor Tom Ammiano, Rec & Park General Manager Elizabeth Goldstein, Ingleside Police Captain Kevin Dillon, BHNC Executive Director Mauricio Vela, city employees involved with the project, interested neighbors and Holly Park's new gardener. Members of Friends of Holly Park, the neighborhood group instrumental in bringing this project to South Bernal Heights were invited to



Sup. Tom Ammiano (left) pitches in with others who made the Holly Park renovations possible at a Nov. 3rd Groundbreaking ceremony.

wield the golden shovels used for the ceremony.

Work on the Holly Park Capital Renovation began on October 6th. A.Ruiz, the contracted construction company, started in two of the four quadrants it's divided the park into for this work: the playground and the ballfield areas. The project is scheduled to be completed within 8 months, or early June, 2004. This large renovation also includes re-do of the barbeque area, upgrading the tennis and basketball courts, and regrading the eastern entrance and walkways to be wheelchair accessible. New landscaping will enhance all of the areas as well as the entrances.

On the morning of November 3rd, a local group met with Rec & Park regarding trees marked for cutting. This topic was briefly touched upon during the community meetings in Spring, 2002, but this meeting in the park gave the community an opportunity to be heard. The outcome preserved 4

cypresses near the courts and the large tree within the ballfield.

There will be an effort to move, rather than remove three olive trees. It had been decided before the meeting to relocate, rather than remove two magnolias near the playground. In general, the only trees lost will be necessary for the walkway revisions. Judi Mosqueda, Project Manager, committed to earmark any surplus funds for cypress reforestation. Holly Park has lost many of them over the years, without replantings.

The bathroom will be renovated, remaining at its current location. To economize, there was an attempt to use a prefabricated bathroom, but the existing water controls made this difficult. A second company will complete this renovation in time for the park re-opening.

Direct your questions or comments to Judi Mosqueda, Project Manager at 558-4039.

College Hill Reservoir

by Eugenie Marek

The reforestation of the College Hill Reservoir will get a big start on Saturday, December 13th, when 39 trees will be planted within this site, and 3 more at the sidewalk. The SF PUC has partnered with the Friends of the Urban Forest to accomplish this. All Bernal Heights residents are invited to join in the planting at Appleton and Elsie Streets from 9am to 12 noon. Bring your workgloves. Any questions? Contact FUF 561-6890 x 101 (Bill Hart) or go to the website www.fuf.net.

The planting of groundcover and shrubs will probably not occur until the spring. Contact SFPUC 554-3297 (Maureen Barry) to learn more.

The Friends of Holly Park will continue to monitor these projects. Please contact us at 826-0236.

The Gift of Music

If you are still Christmas shopping, consider season tickets to Bernal's own Music on the Hill Chamber Music Series. The ticket prices are more than reasonable for world-class music (\$10 general admission - \$6 students/seniors) and the location can't be beat. All

concerts are performed right here in Bernal Heights at St. Kevin's Church on Cortland and Ellsworth. And you'll be supporting a local non-profit organization.

Next year's performances offer an exciting mix of Renaissance, Classical, and 20th century music, performed by a variety of ensembles from string quartets, viol consorts to Persian guitarists. Tickets for these shows can be purchased at www.musiconthehill.org, by phone at 820-1429 or via e-mail moth-muse@aol.com.

* February 8, 2004

Ariel String Quartet

Members of the quartet have gained recognition as individuals and as an ensemble both locally and nationally. They have toured, recorded and performed with the New York Philharmonic, the New York Chamber Orchestra, the Odessa Philharmonic, as well as locally with the San Francisco Opera, and Ballet Orchestras. They will be performing works by Schubert, Bartok and Beethoven. William Barbini & Keneko Okumura, violins; Igor Veligan, viola; Victoria Ehrlich, cello.

* March 28, 2004

Sex Chordae Consort of Viols

Sex Chordae of Viols was founded by gambist John Dornenburg for the purpose of performing and recording the vast literature for viol consort of the 16th and 17th centuries. They will perform music by Thomas Campion, Orlando Gibbons, John Dowland, and William Byrd. {"An entertaining performance...extravagantly enjoyable." Joshua Kosman, The San Francisco Chronicle}. John Dornenburg, David Morris, treble viols; Julie Jeffrey, tenor viol; Farley Pearce, bass viol; Susan Rode Morris, soprano.

* May 16, 2004

Falsafi Brothers

The Falsafi Brothers, duo guitars plus guest artist, Kamran Modirian on tonbak will perform works by Boccherini, Piazzola, Kamenja, Bogdanovic, Falsafi, Vivaldi. Brothers Babak and Pedram Falsafi were born in Shemiran, Iran and took up the guitar at age nine. They received international attention winning the first Berkeley Ethnic Music

Competition in memory of the victims of the September 11th tragedy. "Babak and Pedram Falsafi are known for their distinctive repertoire which includes ethnic works. These pieces allow them to speak to their audiences through the essence of their native Persia." France Times.

Music on the Hill is a community supported non-profit chamber music series dedicated to supporting the best of the Bay area musicians, presenting cutting edge chamber concerts since 1998. Local merchants and concertgoers fund the series.

Announcing the formation of Bernal Heights Preservation

By Terry Milne

The history of Bernal Heights is important to all of us. A new group is forming to honor the history of Bernal Heights and to support the preservation of its architectural heritage and character. We need volunteers.

Projects in oral history, historical photography, archival collection, and architectural preservation are the vision. Assistance will be needed to interview long-time residents, to discover old photos and maps, and to research buildings facing demolition.

If you would like to volunteer to help with one of the projects, or would like to join us for an exploratory meeting, contact: Bernal Heights Preservation, Gail Sansbury (membership coordinator) 42 Bonview St. SF CA 94110; tel: 824-2659; email: Sansbury@worldnet.att.net

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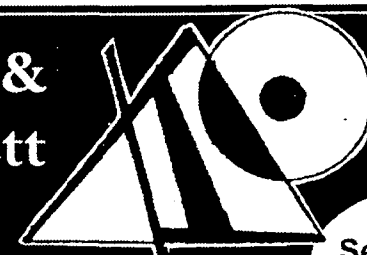


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New Economic Development and Senior Services in the Excelsior

By Cristy Johnston

Last month, the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center opened the doors to a new office housing the Excelsior Neighborhood Commercial Revitalization (ENCoRe) project and the Senior Neighborhood Elder Support Team (NEST) program.

ENCoRe is a partnership between the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center and the Excelsior Action Group (EAG), a community driven resident and merchant organization, dedicated to the revitalization of Mission Street's commercial corridor. ENCoRe's mission is to preserve small, family-owned businesses and the eclectic character of the Excelsior. The project plan includes increasing storefront and sidewalk cleanliness on Mission Street, recruiting new businesses to fill vacancies such as the Woolworth's/Rite Aid building, and building community pride in the Excelsior.

The ENCoRe office opened just in time for the First Annual Excelsior Festival, co-produced by the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center and the Excelsior Action Group. The crowd was estimated at

4,000 attendees, a sizeable amount of festivalgoers considering that it was the Excelsior's first street festival since 1949. The Excelsior Festival is just one way to bring together members of this diverse community and shine the spotlight on an underserved and often-forgotten but nevertheless proud and vibrant community. BHNC is proud and honored to be a part of this community building event.

In addition to the opening of the Excelsior NEST and ENCoRe offices, two new staff members joined the Bernal team. Antonio Cornell was hired as the Case Manager for NEST, which is a neighborhood agency that brings services to seniors, assisting them to live independently and safely in their homes. Antonio joins our team with over four years of case management experience working with clients in supportive housing with Episcopal Community Services, the Probation Department and Eden Information and Referral as a housing specialist. He also recently completed his Master's Degree in counseling and has hit the ground running as he builds his caseload of Excelsior clients.

ENCoRe's project manager, Cristy Johnston is also a San Francisco native, and lived in the Excelsior for several years before receiving her Bachelor's in Political Science at U.C.

Berkeley. Cristy now joins Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center after working in Sacramento as a legislative aide for the Senate. As part of the project's goals, Cristy will work to recruit merchants and residents to actively participate in the development of a thriving urban shopping village for local residents to enjoy and be proud.

ENCoRe and NEST complement the many other services and programs BHNC currently offers in the Excelsior. Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center's services and membership continue to grow and your continued support and membership enable BHNC to continue its mission of building a strong and inclusive community by providing essential services to moderate and low-income residents and for organizing change. ■

BHNC Breaks Ground on Affordable Senior Housing

On October 8, Mayor Willie Brown and Supervisor Gerardo Sandoval joined BHNC staff, supporters, and friends in celebrating the groundbreaking of 5199 Mission Street Senior Housing, 37 new apart-

ments that will be permanently affordable to low-income seniors. "We are proud to be able to bring our expertise in affordable housing development to a neighborhood that has been underserved for too long," commented Mauricio Vela, BHNC Executive Director.

Housing Services Affiliate of the BHNC is working in partnership with Mission Housing Development Corporation to develop the building. Financial support from the Mayor's Office of Housing, under current Director Daryl Higashi and former

Director Marcia Rosen, has allowed the project to successfully leverage a matching amount of federal funding from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The building will feature a large multipurpose activity room, landscaped courtyard and roof deck, laundry, and office space for the property manager and a services coordinator.

For additional information, please contact Amy Beinart at 206-2140 x150 or abeinart@bhnc.org. ■



Photo: Joseph Smooke

Darryl Higashi, Carlos Romero, Mauricio Vela, Sup. Gerardo Sandoval, Steve Curier, Mary Harris, and David Hooper break ground at the new Senior Affordable Housing site at 5199 Mission.



Mayor Brown officiated over the groundbreaking.

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New Bernal Journal En Español!

Agosto/Septiembre 2003

Más de 15,000 personas celebran la Fiesta on the Hill

La Cena de Gala para el veintyquinto aniversario hizo honor a nuestra historia y a nuestros amigos...

Por Jack Chalmers

Este último 19 de octubre, miembros de nuestra comunidad, invitados y visitantes llenaron diez cuadras de la Avenida Cortland para el festival anual de Bernal Heights, un evento que recauda fondos para el BHNC. El festival fue el más exitoso de todos desde que se empezó la tradición hace quince años. La música continúa y las representaciones artísticas en los dos escenarios divertieron al público en ambos extremos de la Avenida Cortland, mientras las actividades, los artesanos, los vendedores, las organizaciones locales y la área culinaria de la Fiesta atraeron a participantes en cada cuadra del festival. Nuestro grupo musical principal, Tierra, nos ayudó a atraer al público más grande que hemos tenido hasta hoy.

La Fiesta on the Hill es el evento más grande que organiza el Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center para recaudar fondos. Más de 200 voluntarios organizan y producen este evento anual que permite al BHNC continuar su trabajo con jóvenes, ancianos, alojamiento para la gente de bajos ingresos, la revitalización de la calle Mission en el Excelsior y la organización comunitaria.

La celebración de nuestro Veintyquinto Aniversario empezó tres días antes, el 16 de octubre, en el Crowne Plaza Hotel. Durante la Cena de Gala llena de gente, el

BHNC hizo honor a un co-fundador de la organización, a voluntarios importantes y también a partners en fundaciones y corporaciones. Las personas felicitadas fueron Buck Bagot, Bernice "Bebe" Castaing, Scott Cunningham, Bill Sorro, el Bank of America y la San Francisco Foundation. La cena fue una oportunidad para recordar 25 años de historia y recaudar fondos para los programas del BHNC.

El BHNC quisiera agradecer a los voluntarios, los participantes, los patrocinadores y a los que llegaron a la cena y a la Fiesta. Gracias a su generosidad podemos seguir ofreciendo nuestros programas y servicios a la comunidad. ■



photo: Joseph Smooke



photo: Joseph Smooke

photo: Scott Cunningham

Niños de la Escuela Buena Vista cantan para los invitados en la Celebración del Veintyquinto Aniversario del BHNC.

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Desarrollo económico y servicios para ancianos: dos nuevos programas en el Excelsior

Por Cristy Johnston

El mes pasado, el Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center abrió las puertas de una nueva oficina en el Excelsior, donde se desarrollarán el programa llamado ENCoRe, Excelsior Neighborhood Commercial Revitalization (Revitalización Comercial del Barrio Excelsior), y la extensión al Excelsior del programa llamado NEST, Neighborhood Elder Support Team (Equipo de Apoyo al Anciano).

El programa ENCoRe es el producto de la asociación entre el Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center y el Excelsior Action Group (EAG), un grupo comunitario compuesto por residentes y comerciantes dedicado a la revitalización comercial de la Calle Mission. La misión de ENCoRe es la preservación de los pequeños negocios familiares y del

carácter ecléctico del Excelsior. El plan de proyecto incluye una mayor limpieza de las fachadas y de las aceras en la Calle Mission, el reclutamiento de nuevos negocios para llenar espacios vacantes tales como el edificio de Woolworth/Rite Aid, y el fortalecimiento del orgullo de la comunidad.

La oficina de ENCoRe abrió justo a tiempo para el Primer Festival Anual del Excelsior, co-producido por el Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center y el Excelsior Action Group. Se estimó que llegaron 4,000 personas, un número bastante impresionante dado que fue el primer festival callejero en el Excelsior desde el año 1949. El Festival es una manera de unir los diversos miembros de la comunidad y atraer atención hacia esta comunidad desatendida y a veces olvidada pero orgullosa y vibrante.

losa y vibrante.

Además de estrenar la oficinas de ENCoRe y de NEST en el Excelsior, dos nuevos empleados se unieron al equipo de Bernal. Antonio Cornell fue contratado para implementar el programa NEST en el Excelsior. El programa ayuda a traer servicios a personas ancianos por medio de voluntarios, lo cual les permite vivir de manera segura e independiente en sus casas. Antonio nos viene con más de cuatro años de experiencia en el ámbito de los servicios sociales. Obtuvo recientemente su doctorado en asesoría, con enfoque en la asesoría en las escuelas, y está presentemente generando una base de clientes para el programa.

La gerente del proyecto ENCoRe, Cristy Johnston, también nacida en San Francisco y ha vivido en el Excelsior

durante varios años antes de ir a la Universidad de California en Berkeley. Cristy ha trabajado en el gobierno local y estatal con enfoque en el análisis de las políticas públicas. Hoy, como parte de las metas del proyecto ENCoRe, Cristy trabajará con partners privados y públicos para atraer nuevos negocios y reclutar a nuevos comerciantes y residentes para participar en el desarrollo de un área comercial próspera de la que los residentes podrán estar orgullosos.

ENCoRe y NEST complementan los diversos servicios y programas que ofrece presentemente en BHNC en el Excelsior. El número de servicios y de miembros del BHNC sigue subiendo. Su apoyo y su afiliación permiten al BHNC seguir con su misión de construir una comunidad fuerte e inclusiva gracias a los servicios esenciales que provee a las personas de ingresos bajos y medianos. ■



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A girl poses with her freshly painted pumpkin at Fiesta 2003

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El comerciante más anciano de Bernal Heights cumple 90 años

Por Natalie Dreese

Edwin F. Lingsch, dueño de Lingsch Realty en el número 3232 de la Calle Mission, cumple 90 años el día 26 de diciembre.

El Sr. Lingsch fundó Lingsch Realty en el año 1952. Desde las compras y la ventas de locales, hasta el financiamiento y la gestión de desarrollos, Don Lingsch ha sido instrumental en el desarrollo de numerosas propiedades en Bernal Heights, tales como locales en las calles Folsom, Ripley, Winfield y

photo: Natalie Dreese

Tiffany.

En el apogeo de Lingsch Realty, Don Lingsch dirigió a diez agentes inmobiliarios. Actualmente tiene a tres agentes trabajando para él, incluyendo a su nieta, Natalie Drees.

Muchos comerciantes de la Calle Mission conocen a Don Lingsch por su gran sabiduría del mundo del negocio y su comportamiento tranquilo. Con 90 años, todavía gestiona las operaciones diarias de Lingsch Realty tales como la compra, la venta, la gestión y el financiamiento de las propiedades, y sigue sorprendiendo a todo el mundo con su energía.

Eddie, del restaurante Al's Good Food, recuerda el día, hace solo un par de años, que Lingsch salió corriendo para cruzar la calle, evitando a todos

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carros, con su ropa recién limpiada.

Nacido en San Francisco, Don Lingsch recuerda el tiempo, antes de 1930, cuando el Banco de America en la Mission con la Calle 29 era la primera rama del Banco de Italia, cuando los tranvías viajaban por la Calle Mission en vez de los buses, y cuando se podía agarrar un tren desde la Avenida Silver hasta Half Moon Bay. ■

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Sale Prices effective
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Toys for Tots

Please donate a new
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the Toys for Tots program
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San Francisco Fire Dept.
Donation Bins at your favorite
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Breakfast Cereals
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\$2.99

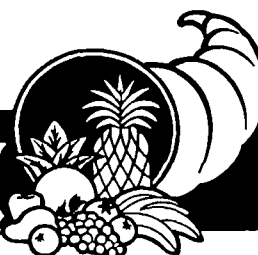


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Volunteers Spruce up Cortland Ave. with Trees

by Eugenie Marek

On November 21st, twenty new trees were planted on Cortland Avenue between Bonview and Folsom Streets. Soon to follow will be tree-well bricking, small white tree lights, new trash receptacles including dog bag dispensers and ten more benches. Look for the existing trees to be pruned next spring, and the sidewalks to be professionally cleaned.

This creative project was conceived and worked out by the Cortland Merchants Association. Now with forty members, this group has not only grown in number over the past two decades, but also in its vision about the role it plays in serving our community.

There has been more than a year of discussion and planning at the Merchant's monthly meetings related to this project. There has also been the hard work of coordinating the details to make this happen. Early on, co-Presidents Michael Grafton (Baltic to Boardwalk Real Estate) and David Ayoob (Four Star Video) asked Supervisor Tom Animiano for funding sources. Grafton then prepared proposals that yielded great results: \$ 24,000 Mayor's Neighborhood Beautification Fund grant and a \$10,000 SF Beautiful grant specifically for benches.

Both grants specify that our neighborhood contribute its part. South Bernal volunteers first came out for a small street project last year. This year, they committed to join Friends of the Urban Forest for the November tree planting and then to

return to complete the tree wells for not just the new trees but also the established trees. In addition, the Cortland Merchants put together a fund raising dinner this past May and will do so again in 2004, expanding it to a Dinner & Dance. Their booth at Fiesta on the Hill adds more neighborhood funds.

The new trees are a mix of ever-green and maple. Their placement fills in some gaps along Cortland Avenue, while avoiding underground utilities, garages and bus stops. The sand and bricks in the tree wells allow water to seep down so the trees stay healthy. There are still some decisions to be made regarding the lights for sidewalk illumination, and details about the benches, which will be made to order and secured to the streets.

The Cortland Merchants are pleased with this enhancement to our

Peter Rothblatt

Massage and Bodywork

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For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 415.285.9129

Great holiday
gift idea!

"Main Street," and proud that the community comes out and works hard to support their plan. Drawings related to the Cortland Avenue

Beautification Project are displayed in the window of Four Star Video. Be sure to take the time to admire the new trees! ■



(left) Mike Boss, Rock and Rose Landscaping, Cortland Merchant Association member, helps Friends of the Urban Forest personnel with new trees for Cortland Ave. More projects are planned for the future. (right) A volunteer tears in with a pick axe to ensure deep roots for the tree

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Preventing Conflicts With Coyotes

As many of you know, a coyote has taken up residence on Bernal Hill. So far, he has been docile and no untoward incidents between it and the public has occurred. The city is currently investigating the feasibility of removing the coyote, but this may be a lengthy process. In the interest of public safety and information, we present tips for dealing with the coyote should you encounter it, courtesy of the Little Blue Society. --Ed.

Coyote attacks on people are quite rare. However, when children or pets are injured, it is on account of the vulnerable situations we create for ourselves and for those who depend on us for fundamental protection.

PREVENTION is Only KEY for avoiding conflicts with coyotes.

BE AWARE

- Be aware of your surroundings at all times and stay on the trail/path.
- Never let small children race ahead of you or lag behind.
- Always keep your dog on a leash.

AVOID COYOTES

- If you spot a coyote ahead:
 - Wait for it to move on.
 - Change your route.
- If there is an area known to be frequented by coyotes:

- Stay away during their peak activity hours e.g. dusk until dawn.
- During breeding/whelping season.

ALERT COYOTES

If you are in a heavily wooded or densely brushed area, or simply feeling nervous in your surroundings:

- Make noise!
- Talk or sing
- Clap your hands

This will alert the coyote to your presence. It wants to avoid you as much as you want to avoid it.

COYOTE ENCOUNTERS, APPROACHES AND ATTACKS

- DO NOT Make eye contact (considered a challenge)
- DO NOT Smile (considered a sign of aggression "baring teeth")
- DO NOT RUN AWAY (it will chase you - predator/prey response)
- DO NOT let your dog "socialize" with the coyote.
- Stop walking, running or cycling, if on a bicycle.
- Put yourself between the coyote and small children.
- Pick up toddlers and small dogs.
- Keep large dogs on a leash and pulled in close to you.
- Wait for it to move on

If the coyote does not move on:

- Slowly walk backwards away from it, without turning your back.
- Once you are at a safe distance, take another route.

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If you are attacked:

- Put something between you and the mouth of the coyote e.g. an umbrella, stick, backpack or jacket
- Fight Back.

Young children should be instructed to act aggressive, but if they are knocked down:

- Curl up into a ball, face down on the ground. Interlock hands and place them on the back of the neck and draw in the elbows to protect the ears.

If you feel threatened, act aggressive:

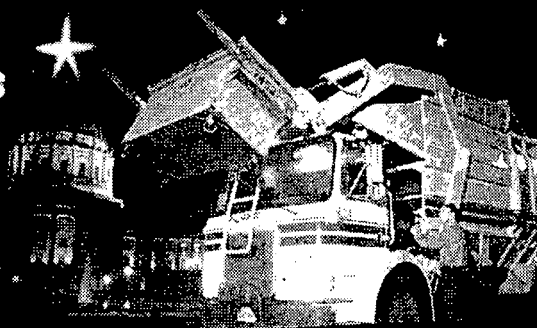
- Make yourself big, and wave your arms around
- Shout and yell
- Take an umbrella with you on your walks. Open and close the umbrella repeatedly while facing the coyote.
- DO NOT injure the coyote. Injured coyotes can become dangerous.

If the coyote approaches you on the same trail:

- Move as far out of its way as possible and let it pass
- Pick up your small child or dog
- Always give the coyote a way to escape



Happy Holidays



GARBAGE AND RECYCLING HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
DEC 22 Regular pickup	DEC 23 Regular pickup	DEC 24 Regular pickup	DEC 25 NO PICKUP	DEC 26 Pickup for THURS. customers	DEC 27 Pickup for FRI. customers
DEC 29 Regular pickup	DEC 30 Regular pickup	DEC 31 Regular pickup	JAN 1 NO PICKUP	JAN 2 Pickup for THURS. customers	JAN 3 Pickup for FRI. customers

Recycle Your Tree at the Curb!

DURING THE WEEK JANUARY 5 - 9, 2004

- No Flocked Trees!
- Remove metal or plastic base (wood base okay)
- Remove all lights, tinsel and other decorations
- No trees in plastic bags

Downtown businesses, call Golden Gate Disposal & Recycling to schedule a Tree pick up at 415-626-4000.



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Kragen: 6101 Geary, 387-1783
T&R76-2: 301 25th Ave., 668-4343
Firestone: 2800 Geary, 567-3311
Kragen: 3855 Geary, 668-5241
T&R76-1: 3501 Geary, 752-3968

Pacific Heights & Western Addition

Chevron: 2500 California, 567-1136

South of Market

Firestone: 1501 Mission St., 621-4650
Jiffy Lube: 300 7th St., 255-0900
Kragen: 2300 16th St., 431-3386
Mark Morris Tires: 1401 Mission, 863-3939
Quality Tune-Up: 490 S. Van Ness, 431-6550
SF-Honda: 10 S. Van Ness, 441-2000

Potrero Hill & Mission Bay

R + W 76: 800 Folsom, 982-2836
S&C Ford: 211 Industrial, 553-4400

Marina & Cow Hollow

Kragen: 2246 Lombard, 563-4200

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Kragen: 2500 San Bruno, 656-0696
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Sanitary Fill Company: 501 Tunnel, 330-1400

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Kragen: 2150 Taraval, 682-9177
Chevron: 1890 19th Ave., 731-2733
Mark's Unocal 76: 1700 Noriega, 566-0440

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Port of SF: China Basin @ Pier 52/54, 274-0565
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Mark Morris Tires: 1200 Larkin, 673-3441

Civic Center

Quality Tune-Up: 1175 Fell, 626-6446

Downtown & South of Market

Union 76: 390 1st St., 957-1754

Mission & Bernal Heights

Oil Changer: 198 Valencia, 487-1740
Unocal 76: 401 Potrero, 863-6043

Bayview & Hunters Point

ABC Auto: 1650 Davidson Ave., 826-8676

Excelsior & Crocker Amazon

Kragen: 1150 Ocean, 585-9800
Quality Tune-Up: 4650 Mission, 334-4993

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Claremont Chevron: 301 Claremont, 753-9552



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For more information, call the SF Environment hotline: (415) 554-4333

Funded by a grant from the California Integrated Waste Management Board. Call center for hours of operation and quantities accepted.

Friends of Bernal Schools

Donate a Phone and Save a Life

The Fairmount School's 'Girls on the Run' program will be collecting and recycling used wireless phones and accessories to give to The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence and The Wireless Foundation. Donated phones are collected and programmed to dial emergency numbers and then distributed to victims of family violence. Phones and accessories (chargers, etc.) can be dropped off at the Fairmount School office, 65 Chenery St. @ Randall, 8-4pm until December 9. For more information, call Fairmount ES- 695-5669.

Looking For a School For Next Year?

For all incoming kindergarteners and 6th and 9th graders, enrollment forms must be to the EPC by January 16th. Enrollment forms and guides are available at all public school offices and at EPC, 555 Franklin St.

Tours of local Bernal Elementary schools are available as follows:

Paul Revere - 555 Tompkins - Wednesday or Thursday - by appointment 695-5656

Leonard Flynn - 3125 Cesar Chavez - Tuesday and Thursday 9 am or by appointment 695-5770

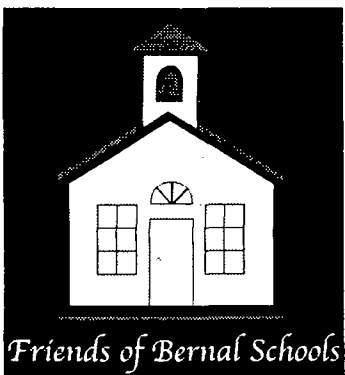
Fairmount - 65 Chenery St - Tuesday 9 am - 695-5669

Junipero Serra - 625 Holly Park Circle - any morning between 9 am and 11 am - 695-5685

Gardening club

Fairmount invites anyone who is interested to join in the monthly Roly Poly Gardening Club to help keep the school grounds beautiful. Parents, students and neighbors gather to plant flowers, pick up trash and pull weeds. The upcoming Roly Poly days are Sunday, Dec. 21 and Saturday, Jan. 17, 9 a.m. to noon. Bring your gloves and meet a neighbor.

Shop and Dine for Bernal Schools this Holiday Season!



Here's a fun way to support Bernal Schools and our neighborhood merchants at the same time! On Saturday, December 13th, do your holiday shopping at our unique neighborhood stores, then dine at our delicious local restaurants.

Look for participating stores and restaurants with the poster "Proud Supporter of Bernal Schools" in the window, or ask the merchant. Then mention "I'm shopping/dining for Bernal Schools" and the merchant will donate up to 10% of the sale (at no extra cost to you) to Friends of Bernal Schools to help our local schools!

For more information call Friends of Bernal Schools at 648-4019.

16th Annual Holiday Toy Give-Away

Celebrate the Holiday Season with Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center and the Greater Mission Consortium! Join us for our annual Holiday Toy Give-Away. Youth ages 1-13 are invited to visit Santa, enjoy holiday refreshments, and take home a new holiday present.

For Bernal Residents and Students

Bank of America
3250 Mission Street (in the parking lot)
Tuesday, December 16, 2003
3:00 - 6:00 pm

For Excelsior Residents and Students

Greater Mission Consortium
4468 Mission Street at Excelsior
Thursday, December 18, 2003
3:00 - 6:00 pm

Pre-registration to receive a toy is required. To register, please contact Kristen Atkinson at 206-2140 ext. 169 or Jasmine Alvarez at 334-9919 ext. 101.

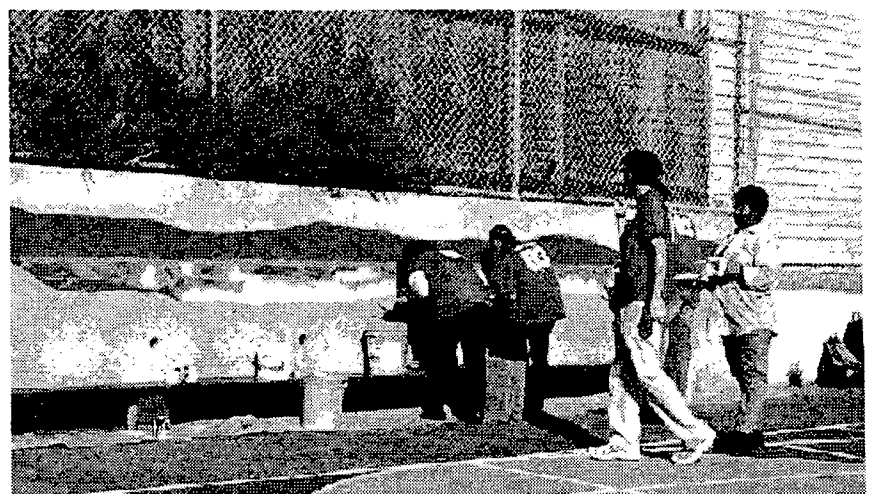
Help bring joy to 600 neighborhood children by making a generous donation to our holiday celebration. New toys or monetary donations can be dropped off at the following locations between Monday, December 1 - Friday, December 12:

Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center, 515 Cortland Ave.
Greater Mission Consortium, 4468 Mission Street

New Toys can also be donated at the following local merchants:

Good Life Grocery, 448 Cortland Ave.
Four Star Videos, 402 Cortland Ave.

Our Heartfelt Thanks to all who Support our Annual Holiday Celebration!
Sponsored by the Mayor's Council on Criminal Justice and the Haas Senior Fund



Paul Revere school kids are playing near a new mural these days, thanks to Hands On San Francisco, Friends of Bernal Schools and Digitas. The three organizations combined efforts to create a 120 foot mural in the upper playground wall. Artist Sheila Ghidini of Bernal Heights designed the mural and employees from Digitas painted it on November 3rd.

December: 20% off all Collars and Leashes

January: 20% off all Beds

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Bernal Heights' Oldest Business Owner Turns 90

By Natalie Dreese

Edwin F. Lingsch, owner of Lingsch Realty at 3232 Mission St., turns 90-years old on December 26.

Mr. Lingsch founded Lingsch Realty in 1952. From buying and selling lots, to financing purchases and managing developments, Mr. Lingsch has been instrumental in developing numerous properties in Bernal Heights, including lots on Folsom, Ripley, Winfield and Tiffany Streets.

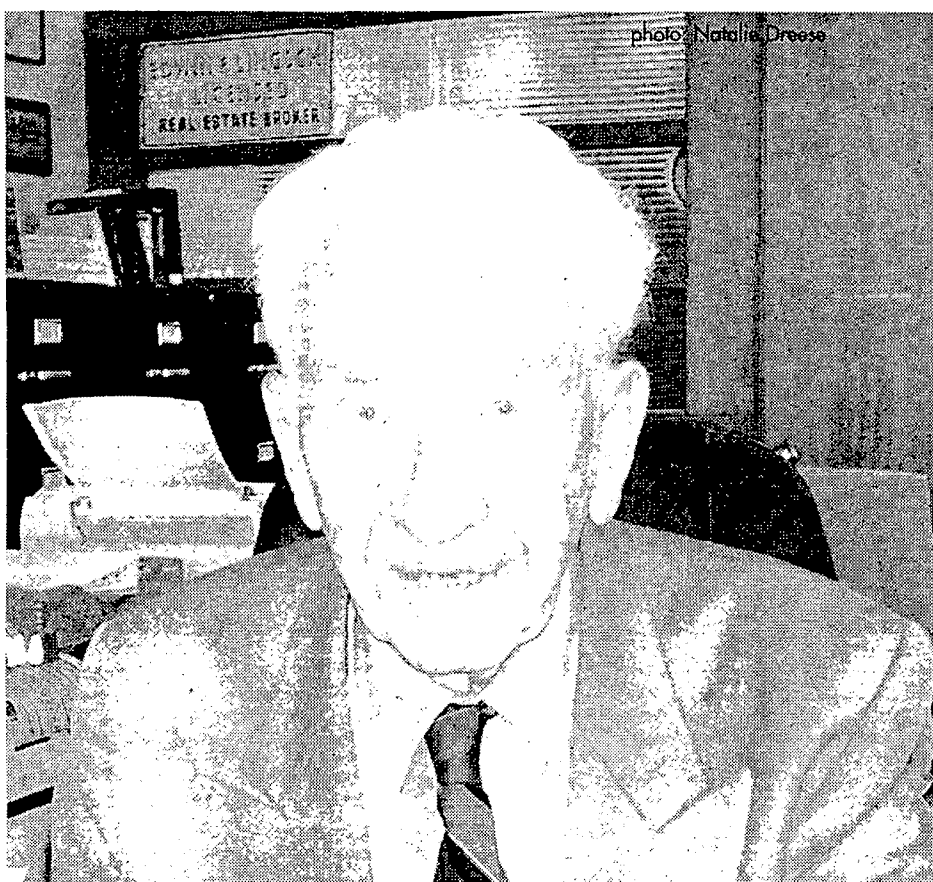
At Lingsch Realty's peak, Mr. Lingsch oversaw as many as 10 real estate agents. He currently has three agents working for him, including his granddaughter, Natalie Drees.

Many fellow business owners along the Mission St. corridor know Mr. Lingsch for his business savvy and

quiet demeanor. At 90, he still manages Lingsch Realty's daily operations of buying, selling, managing and financing property and continues to surprise everyone with his energy.

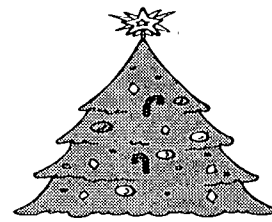
Eddie, from Al's Good Food, recounts a story of Mr. Lingsch, just a couple years ago, darting across the street and dodging traffic while carrying his dry cleaning.

A native of San Francisco, Mr. Lingsch recalls a time when, before 1930, the Bank of America on Mission St. at 29th St. was the first branch of the Bank of Italy, street cars traveled Mission St. instead of buses, and you could take a train from Silver Ave. all the way to Half Moon Bay. ■



New Nonagenarian Ed Lingsch, still plugging away in his Real Estate office

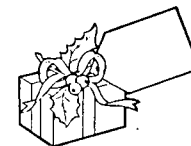
3rd Annual Senior Wish Tree Make a Bernal Heights Senior's Holiday Special!



Last year, dozens of Bernal Seniors received gifts from people in our community. We ask you again to participate in this unique holiday activity by picking a senior star and fulfilling their holiday gift wish.

How to Participate:

Step 1: Come to the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center (515 Cortland Ave.) between December 1st & 13th to sign out a Senior Star from our Senior Wish Tree in the lobby. The star will tell you your Senior's holiday gift wish. Purchase and wrap your Senior's gift. Label it with the star tag.



Step 2: Tuesday, December 16th, attach the Senior Star label to your Senior's gift and deliver it to the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center Senior Department between the hours of 9 & 5.

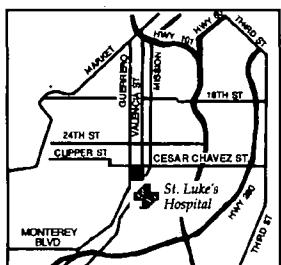
Active Seniors will receive their star gifts on December 19th at the Senior Holiday Luncheon (All are welcome!). The homebound Seniors will have their star gifts along with a hot holiday meal, delivered on December 21st & 22nd. If you would like to

VOLUNTEER as one of our holiday helpers please call Suzanne at 206-2140 x132. Opportunities include delivering meals and gifts, baking holiday treats assembling meal packages and caroling to homebound seniors.



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Pedro and Beethoven

By Mary Tudor

Almost every mid-morning, the neighbors and park goers of Holly Park are treated to a flawless display of obedience by a dog named Beethoven. Stay, circle, run. Stay, circle, run. Beethoven performs these routines over and over.

Other dogs go by, but Beethoven's attention never leaves his master, Pedro. Pedro keeps eye contact with the dog even as he speaks. "I've trained lots of animals - horses, cows, dogs, donkeys. I have a ranch in Mexico, and I grew up with animals," he shrugs.

"Da mè la," says Pedro, and Beethoven retrieves a Kong, looks up at Pedro, sits and offers his paw. Pedro shakes back. "I've been offered a lot of money for this dog," he smiles.

At 85 pounds, Beethoven is a tiny dancer of a German Shepherd. His biggest littermate -- a dog named Principe -- is now twice Beethoven's size. Beethoven also sports a pair of ears that are big and pointed enough to deserve the name he got.

And yes, like his mother, Beethoven does roll over.

"He was part of an unwanted litter," volunteers Pedro's wife, Peggy, who goes on to describe an accident at a relative's home that produced seven puppies, including Beethoven, about three years ago. "We know that his father's father was 100% descended from German shepherds from

Germany. But his mother's mother was full red pit."

Because Pedro's first language is Spanish, and Peggy's is English, Beethoven turned out to be bilingual dog. Add Pedro's hand signals, and Beethoven goes a talking dog one better. He's trilingual! Peggy describes his antics at family gatherings.

"We tell him to go find Auntie Viv, or go find Uncle Rico, and he does."

But both Peggy and Pedro insist that Beethoven's skills go beyond the tasks and tricks they trained him to do. Recuperating from ankle surgery, Peggy describes what Beethoven did when alone in the house, she fell. "He put his body under my shoulder so that I could sit up."

At a Mission street grocery, Beethoven once followed some troublesome teenagers to the door and blocked their exit. Alerted to a problem, its owner did, indeed, catch the kids with stolen product.

Beethoven also once herded a stranger's toddler who was headed toward traffic back to safety.

Pedro tells a story about how he and Beethoven stopped and captured a pit bull that was mauling a Dachshund in Holly Park. Pedro said Beethoven's eyes never left the pit's - nor, in fact, did Pedro's. "I wrapped my jacket around my arm." Pedro demonstrates how he held his arm just below his eyes to protect his face as he and Beethoven moved closer and closer to the pit.

"I just kept talking to the dog," said Pedro - "until I could grab his collar, and then I could put the leash on," said Pedro with relief in his voice. No doubt, his eyes never left the dog either.

Pedro says police officers have occasionally asked him to leash Beethoven when they're walking. "But 'why' I ask them," says Pedro. "He stays by my side with no leash."

On the way home, Beethoven is running in circles around Pedro as we proceed down the sidewalk near Holly Park. "He wants to GO!" Pedro explains. "But he doesn't want to leave

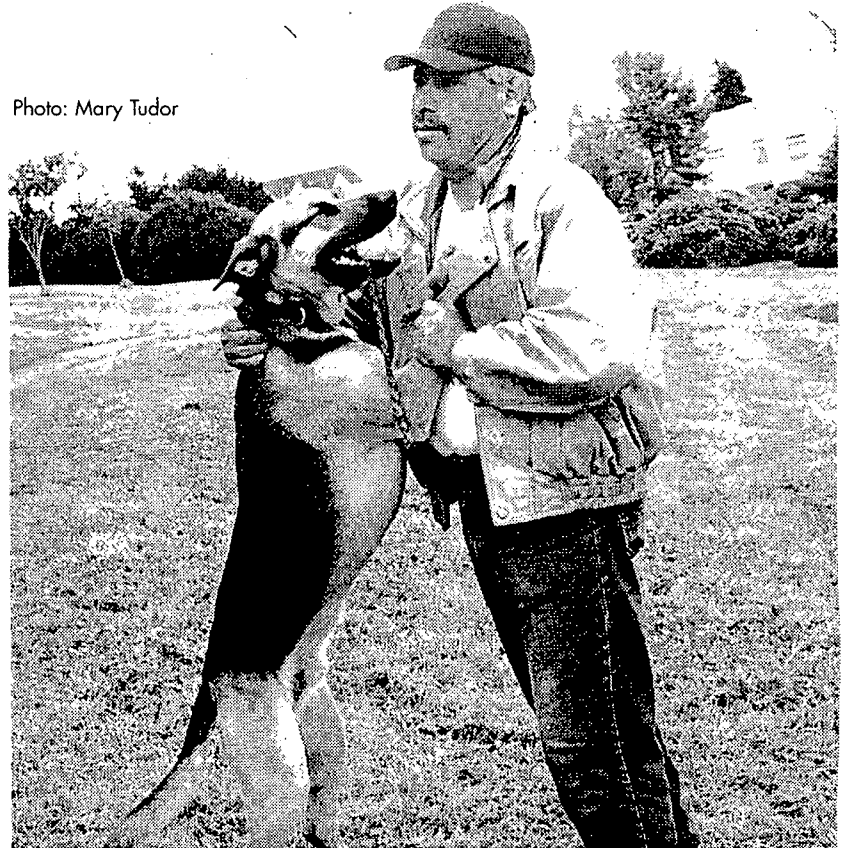
me."

A few people emerge from a nearby house and fill the sidewalk in our pathway. At a single motion of Pedro's hand, Beethoven returns to the heel position and walks at Pedro's side. I look at him.

"You just have to know the dog," he smiles. ■

Mary Tudor has lived in Bernal Heights for 15 years. She's also the mistress of Buddha, a Chow and Golden Retriever mix, who often romps in Holly Park.

Photo: Mary Tudor



Pedro and Beethoven have an unique bond, formed over many years.



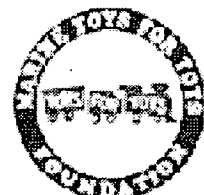
Gil Payne
415-235-7745



Nick Falconio
415-294-4029



Prudential California Realty



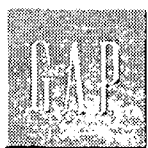
Happy Holidays, Bernal Heights!!!

Please join us in supporting the Toys for Tots program this holiday season and help bring joy and hope to needy children and their families. We will be visiting our neighbors on Bernal Hill to ask them to kindly donate an unwrapped toy or two in Prudential's drive to help the Marine Corp Reserve and Toys for Tots bring cheer to those suffering hardships throughout California. A Happy Holiday Season to you and yours. Gil & Nick

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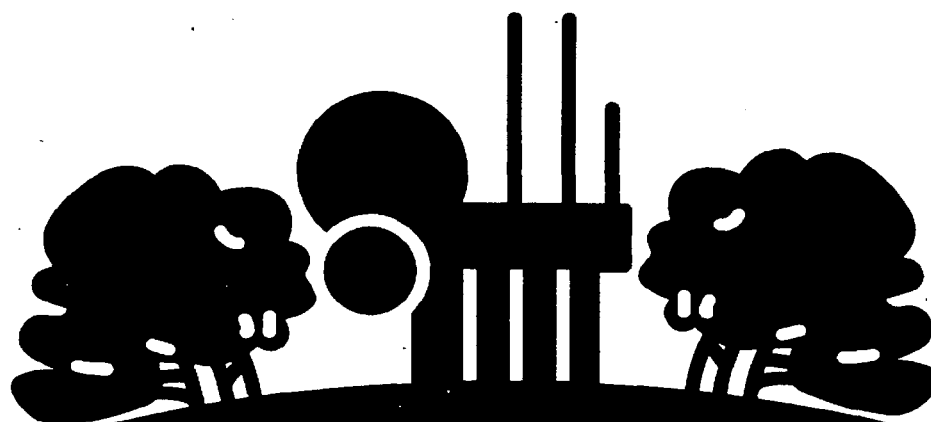
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At Home in Bernal Heights

Happy Holidays from Bernal Hill Realty. However you choose to celebrate the season, we hope you have a very joyous one.

Here at Bernal Hill Realty, we understand how important it is to have a home and a community in which to share the season with loved ones. We also understand that the holidays are a time for giving. In fact, Bernal Hill is proud to announce that we donate a full one percent of our annual commissions to organizations doing great work right here in our own community, on a year round basis.

This past year we chose the Cortland Merchant Association for their Cortland Avenue beautification project, Precita Eyes Muralists for their Mural Arts Festival, the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center for their ongoing work in community organizing, and Music on the Hill for their fabulous classical concert series.

We're proud to make a difference in the Bernal Heights community by supporting these wonderful local organizations. If you have an organization you would like to nominate for the Bernal Hill Award, please call us.

www.BernalHill.com

Happy, Happy Holidays to You and Yours!

❄️ ❄️ *from all of us at* ❄️ ❄️

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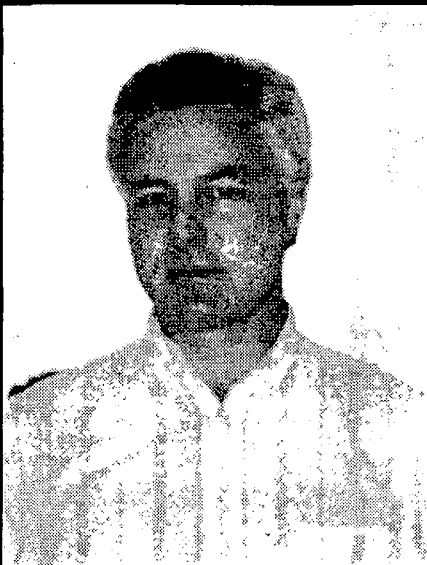
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